

8. (Currently Amended) The chamber of claim 1, wherein the guard ring further comprises:

a first flange coupled to the base portion and disposed against the shaft, the first flange defining the wedge;

a second flange coupled to the base portion and disposed against the step formed in the inner surface; and

a channel separating the first flange from the second flange.

Claims 12, 13, 18 and 20 are cancelled.

In the Specification

Paragraph 0037, line 7 – “with the lip 350” to be amended to “with the lip 352”, as per Figure 3.

MR

8-13-7

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1: Prior art (US Patent No.5,508,519 – Bennett et al) do not teach claim limitation “a chamber body having an aperture formed in a bottom of the chamber body; a substrate support disposed in the chamber body; a moveable shaft coupled to the substrate support, the movable shaft extending through the aperture; a step formed in an inner surface of the aperture and a substantially annular guard ring positioned within the step;

wherein the guard ring further comprises:

a base portion having an outer circumference and an inner perimeter, wherein the outer circumference contacts the step and the inner perimeter is adapted for substantially sealing a gap between the shaft and the aperture; and